

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION OF: YOSHINOBU HASHIZUME, ET. AL.

APPLICATION NO.: 09/977,621

: Examiner: NOT ASSIG

FILING DATE:

October 15, 2001

: Group Art Unit: No

ASSIGNED

Ary! or heteroary! fused imidazole compounds as anti-inflammatory and analgesic

agents

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title, add:

-- This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. application serial no. 60/241,825, filed October 19, 2000.—

Dated: December 14'01

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Respectfully submitted,

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